

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
MAY 19, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the Cesar E. Chavez Park Community Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**Present:** Chris Kozaites, President  
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President  
Bea Antenore  
Raymond Chavarria  
Simon George  
William Marmion  
Drew Satariano

**Absent:** none

**Staff:** Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau  
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau  
Janet Day-Anselmo, Manager, Business Operations Bureau  
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts and Revenue Development  
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau  
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Programs  
David Ashman, Manager, Special Events and Filming  
Jane Grobaty, Superintendent of Community Information  
Christina Burton, Community Information  
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

**Guests:** Jodi Metz, LBUSD  
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks  
Shari Metcalfe, Budget Office  
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2005**

**It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve the April 21, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

President Kozaites stated that the Employee of the Month Presentation would be taken next.

**IV. EMPLOYEE-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATION FOR MAY**

President Kozaites stated that Vice President Saltzgaver would announce the Employee of the Month.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Duane Wyant as the May Field Operations Employee of the Month, from the Maintenance Operations Bureau.

Ms. Christine Sanburg stated that she was assigned to Queensway Bay about a year and a half ago, and when the Department lost a few employees, Mr. Wyant took over directing the community service workers and has really stepped up to the plate. This is something very different than what he had been doing. She said that he takes great pride in the job he does and makes sure his equipment is always taken care of well. Ms. Sanburg said that he could be depended on to follow up and make sure a job gets done.

**III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – CHRISSY MARSHALL**

Chrissy Marshall presented the Sammy Award to Del Ransom, who is presently under-filling as her secretary. Ms. Marshall stated that Del exemplifies what we do in this department. He has been a part-time non-career clerk for quite a while and does his job without skipping a beat. He works late, stays longer, helps everyone, and does an outstanding job. He most recently became full-time, about two weeks ago, and they are thrilled. He is someone who goes out and seeks his own training and is always looking to improve himself. She said that Del goes above and beyond and she appreciates his support.

Mr. Hester mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was being videotaped today and Jane Grobaty would introduce the person doing the filming. He said that a number of years ago the Department was selected by the National Recreation and Parks Association as the top recreation and park department in the nation. He stated that cities can only apply every five years, and it has been five years since the Department won the award. Mr. Hester stated that the Department has applied again and has been selected as one of the top four cities. He said that the next step, as part of the process, is to submit a video of the department.

Ms. Jane Grobaty introduced Mark Dell'Aquila, the owner of Eagle Eye Images. She said that he has worked for the City on a number of projects and came highly recommended by the Department of Technology Services.

**V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS**

**#05-0501**

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

**It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to authorize the Community Recreation Programs Bureau manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.**

**#05-0502**

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING "ED 'POPS' DAVENPORT PARK" AS THE POTENTIAL NAME FOR THE NEW PARK BEING CONSTRUCTED AT 55<sup>TH</sup> WAY

Mr. Hester stated that the property is still owned by RDA and once the project is completed, it will be transferred to the City as a dedicated park. He said that this name was approved by a North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area Advisory Committee.

**It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Vice President Saltzgaver to recommend to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee and the full City Council that "Ed 'Pops' Davenport Park" is an appropriate name for the new park being developed on 55<sup>th</sup> Way in North Long Beach. The motion carried unanimously.**

**#05-0503**

2004 LONG BEACH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

**It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report and authorized the Director to forward it to the City Council. The motion carried unanimously.**

**#05-0504**

USE PERMIT WITH THE NORTH LONG BEACH/BIXBY KNOLLS KIWANIS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FOR A CARNIVAL AT HOUGHTON PARK AND REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

Mr. Hester stated that this is an event that comes annually before the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

**It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a Use Permit with the North Long Beach/Bixby Knolls Kiwanis Charitable Foundation for a carnival at Houghton Park. In addition, it was recommended that the \$1,400 in fees associated with the permit for this event be waived. The motion carried unanimously.**

President Kozaites stated that he would like to take agenda item XI A next.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET PRESENTATION – SUZANNE MASON**

Ms. Mason stated that she is here with Shari Metcalfe, who she works with, she in the City Manager's office and Shari in the Budget Office, dealing with budget challenges. She stated that staff noted in 2002 that the City faced very serious challenges with the General Fund budget for fiscal year 2003, which funds most of the parks and recreation programs. Ms. Metcalfe distributed an informational document. Ms. Mason discussed the reduction of the utility users tax by 50 percent. She said that the State took away the vehicle license revenue from cities and there were sales tax shifts and property tax shifts. She said that services and employee benefit costs kept increasing and with all of that, about one third of the budget had to be reduced. Ms. Mason stated that the City made presentations to all of the City's commissions and to the public and distributed the voice your choice survey, where they received a tremendous response from the community, and also received input from employees. The City built a three-year strategy based on that input in the fall of 2002, and in 2003, presented the proposal to the City Council and the public. She said that in March of 2003, the plan was endorsed and in fiscal year 2004, the plan was first implemented. Ms. Mason stated that March 2005 was the halfway point of the three-year plan. She said that in two years, they have reduced the structural deficit by about \$72 million of the \$102 million challenge. She said that while the recreation services and maintenance services have been impacted, the City has done everything they can to minimize those impacts.

Ms. Mason stated that next year would be the greatest challenge to reduce the budget by over \$30 million. She stated that the goal is to make a significant part of the reductions through partnering with employees to find ways to reduce the costs of benefits or compensation. She said that the Budget Oversight Committee has been meeting every month and reviewing the budget, such as tax initiative options. She stated that there would be a public budget summit on July 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at The Grand and encouraged the Commissioners to attend.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. FEES AND CHARGES**

President Kozaites opened the public hearing on fees and charges.

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Finance and Appeals Committee held a number of meetings and thanked Janet Day-Anselmo and her staff for all their work.

Vice President Saltzgaver added that they are also recommending that the Commission adopt a resolution authorizing an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase without review. He stated that the Department has tried to keep fees as low as they can, and if it looked like fees didn't need to be increased, left them the same. But then suddenly, the Department had to recover costs, so fees needed to be raised. He said that this is not a long-term responsible approach to fees, so the Committee is asking for a policy as well as an approval of specific fees.

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Department tried to keep prices as low as possible, but unfortunately, that did not work. He said that the City's fees are still below surrounding cities. He stated that he feels strongly that an automatic CPI increase should be put in place.

Mr. Hester stated that this is a similar approach to what is used at the City's marinas and golf courses. The Department wants to be at the market level and staff will continue to survey the fees every year. He stated that there is also an ongoing Citywide study to look at all fees. He said that the Parks and Recreation Commission also would have the option to not go with the CPI increases each year.

Mr. Hester stated that there is a concern with the recommendation on the filming increase proposal, and he asked Mr. Dave Ashman to state his concerns. He said that the City does not want to be priced out of the industry. He stated that the filming recommendations could be withdrawn from the recommendation this month, if the Commission so wishes.

Mr. Ashman stated that the current fee structure that has been in place for two years was not approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said that the City is the second busiest filming site in the state and the fifth busiest in the nation. He said that if the permitting fees were raised too high, we would lose the ability to market the city as a production site. He stated that he believes that the current rates for filming on public property have been placed at the right rate. He recommended pulling the filming fee recommendation for further discussion.

Vice President Saltzgaver recommended the filming location fees be pulled and that a separate hearing would be held next month.

President Kozaites asked for public comment. There were no comments, so he closed the public hearing on fees.

The Commissioners discussed rounding of the CPI increases but decided against it.

**It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to adopt a resolution for fees and charges relating to the Adaptive Arise program, adult sports, Blair Field, contract classes, day camps, community center facilities, El Dorado East Regional picnic camping and vehicle entry fees, Nature Center tours and classes, and community pool lessons and rentals, effective October 1, 2005. In addition, adopt a resolution, effective October 1, 2005, authorizing the Department to annually, automatically adjust all fees by the CPI, with the ability to adjust for market consideration. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. FEE WAIVER POLICY

President Kozaites opened the public hearing regarding fee waiver policy.

Commissioner Satariano stated that this issue came up last year and they have been meeting consistently on this to get it right. He said that the Committee recommends that the Commission adopt this new fee waiver policy.

President Kozaites stated that one important addition to this policy is section 10.9, which would require all potential applicants to be current on all payments before approval for a fee waiver. He said that there have been issues with this in the past.

Mr. Hester stated that the Commission has given him the authority to waive permit fees. He said that he does bring larger requests to the Commission. He stated that because of the current budget situation, the Department would not be able to waive staff costs any longer, only permit fees.

President Kozaites asked for public comment. There were no comments, so he closed the public hearing regarding fee waiver policy.

**It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to adopt a resolution for the changes to the Parks and Recreation Commission Fee Waiver Policy, effective October 1, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.**

**VII. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
President Kozaites, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and discussed the fee increase proposals.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Committee met several times and the report is included in the packet. He said that the budget, which is seven months elapsed, is pretty much in line. He stated that the exceptions should begin to straighten themselves out in the last three to four months of the budget year. He said that it is a good budget and is being administered correctly.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee did not meet this month and that the statistics were included in the packet. He said two numbers that increased significantly were gang contacts and transient contacts.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the Committee met this morning and the quarterly report was included in the packet.

Commissioner Satariano stated that the community outreach by Department staff is mind-boggling. He said that the supervisors work all day and then attend community meetings at night.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE  
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet this month and the quarterly report was included in the packet. He said that the one thing he noticed was that the Department continues to have a number of projects rejected because of high bids. He said that this is due to a number of reasons but the Department needs to find a way to resolve this.

Commissioner Marmion commented that Long Beach City College is also experiencing higher than expected bids for projects, but are reassessing project costs and awarding the bids.

Commissioner Marmion asked if the time was set for the opening of Rotary Centennial Park. Ms. Marshall responded that the program would begin at 10:30 a.m., on June 25.

Mr. Hester stated that the park would be open to the public this Saturday.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the sports park EIR is final and a CIP Committee would be reviewing it on June 15, with a final recommendation coming to the full Commission at the June meeting. He said that it would then go to the Planning Commission.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee would be meeting on June 9. She mentioned that Jodi Metz is present today to discuss the summer program.

1. "WILD ABOUT NATURE" SUMMER PROGRAM PRESENTATION –  
JODI METZ

Ms. Metz said that the summer program is funded through the school district to provide 19 schools with summer recreation programs. She stated that this year's theme is "Wild About Nature" so they will be doing a lot of nature walks and visiting parks. She said that this is a free program, which begins June 22 and goes until July 22.

**VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – APRIL 2005

Commissioner Chavarria commented that in looking at items under the Community Recreation Programs Bureau on page 9, the Department has a lot of programs for kids to help them stay out of gangs. He mentioned that the Department didn't really have much on the Marathon radio program against gangs.

Ms. Marshall responded that Jesus Thillet was asked to speak during the program.



Vice President Saltzgaver stated that Alvin Bernstein was also on for one hour during the KPCC Marathon, but other than that, there was very little on the City's parks and recreation programs mentioned during the marathon.

Commissioner George asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission's annual report goes to the public libraries and the CSULB library. Mr. Hester responded that it does not, but we can send it to those libraries.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated he was hoping to see an update on the Bixby Park bandshell. Mr. Hester responded that the Department has an architect giving the Department cost estimates for the reconstruction work and that Tom Shippey knows all the details.

Mr. Shippey stated that the idea is to restore the bandshell back to its historical structure, which will be pretty detailed. He said that the architect should be able to give the Department a plan within the next 90 days and then it would be going out to the bid process. He stated that the Department would be using available CIP funds, requesting reimbursement with FEMA, and recovering some of the costs through insurance to pay for the reconstruction. Mr. Shippey said that it should be completed within a year and because they are bringing the building back to its original historical footprint, it would take a little longer than a repair would take.

Mr. Hester stated that the Aquarium of the Pacific has adopted Cesar Chavez Elementary School and Cesar E. Chavez Park.

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Miller Foundation is funding the partnership between the Aquarium and LBUSD for the school and the park.

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE**

President Kozaites stated that there was no correspondence.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

B. CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICIALS (CAPIO) AWARD FOR "*DIRECTIONS*"

Mr. Hester stated that the Department's Community Information Division was recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials for their work on the Department employee newsletter called "*Directions*."

Ms. Grobaty introduced Tina Burton, who is the person behind "*Directions*," the monthly newsletter that is sent out to all employees. She said that Tina really makes a big effort to outreach to all areas of the Department and makes sure they are represented in the articles.

**XII. COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

Mr. Hester stated that a budget schedule was sent to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners on May 11. He said that the upcoming Budget Summit is a very good opportunity for the Commission to attend and make comments.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Kozaites stated that the Commissioners need to discuss election of officers at the June meeting.

**It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to reelect the two current officers for a second year, Chris Kozaites as President and Harry Saltzgaver as Vice President. The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Antenore stated that there would be a presentation in June to the City Council by the group that has been working on the Strategic Plan for Older Adults and they hope to solicit approval from most of the commissions. She said that they have talked to each City Council member, who are in favor of the plan, and the group would be presenting it at the City Council meeting, hopefully the second week in June. She said that she hoped the Parks and Recreation Commission would also support the plan.

Mr. Hester asked if a presentation should be made before the Parks and Recreation Commission before it goes to the City Council.

Vice President Saltzgaver recommended that it be brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission because of its impact on the senior programs the Department has. He said that the process has gone through the Health Department.

Mr. Hester stated that staff would coordinate through the Health Department.

Commissioner Chavarria congratulated Chrissy Marshall and her staff on the opening of Burton W. Chace Park. He said that it has a great water feature.

Ms. Marshall stated that she only organized the event. Dennis Eschen and Anna Mendiola oversaw the building of the park and Tom Shippey and his staff take care of the maintenance of the park.

Commissioner Marmion asked if a desalination plant was proposed for park related property.

Mr. Eschen stated that the only proposed plant he has heard of is for the beach below Bixby Park.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Department does not get credit for many things, such as the 48-hour marathon against gangs, but the Department does more than any other organization with its programs. He said that the Department also provides the facilities for the senior centers and the VOA lunches. He stated that the Department bears expenses of following through with programs and needs to be in on the front end. He stated that he will be on the steering committee for the Homeless Strategic Plan Task Force and he will do his best to represent the parks.

Mr. Hester responded that the Department continues to try and be more active and remind people of the roles the Department plays.

President Kozaites requested that Commissioners provide input at the next meeting regarding their committee assignments.

Mr. Hester mentioned that the Department was contacted by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) a few weeks ago to consider being a kick-off city for a new joint program between the NRPA and Sports Illustrated, with Dodge being a corporate sponsor. He said that the program is called "Good Sports" and Long Beach is one of two cities in the United States to be launch cities for this event. The other municipality is a small county on the east coast. He said that he met with Sports Illustrated this week and the event will be held on June 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Blair Field. Mr. Hester stated that the "Good Sports" program is to discuss all the negative things going on with

kids sports, such as baseball, soccer, volleyball, etc. There will be speakers and an opportunity for youth and their families to discuss working with the kids. There will also be clinics for the kids to participate in activities. He said that this would be a great event for the City.

**XIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2005, at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Rd., Long Beach.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black  
Executive Secretary  
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine